



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phil Steele, or Phil.Steele@noaa.gov
727/570-5305, FAX 727/570-5583
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 21, 2002
NR02-032

RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL OPEN AT NOON, JUNE 1, 2002

NOAA Fisheries announces that the commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico Federal waters will open at noon, local time, on June 1, 2002, and close at noon, local time, on June 10, 2002. The 2002 Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper quota is 4.65-million pounds. The commercial fishing season is divided into spring and fall seasons. The spring season began at noon, local time, on February 1, with 3.10 million pounds available, and the fall season begins at noon, local time, on October 1, with the remainder of the annual quota available. During the spring and fall seasons fishing will be allowed during the first 10 days of each month until the quota is caught. Preliminary landings for February 1-10, 2002, (649,494 pounds), March 1-10, 2002, (528,516 pounds), April 1-10, 2002, (540,728 pounds) and May 1-10, 2002, (525,358 pounds) totaled 2,244,096 pounds of red snapper landed. Therefore, a total of 855,904 pounds remain in the spring quota.

The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit and a Class 1 or Class 2 red snapper license having red snapper aboard must have landed and sold such red snapper before noon, local time, on June 10, 2002. The minimum size limit for the commercial fishery is 15 inches total length.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>. To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.